

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOGADI 01702 111211Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-07 IO-13
/088 W

-----035574 111217Z /50

O R 110955Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5359
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1702

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MFOR, SO, ET, US, UR
SUBJ: SIAD REPORTEDLY PROPOSES TO SWAP ARMS SUPPLIERS

REF: MOGADISCIO 1700 (NOTAL)

1. THE EMBASSY INVITES THE DEPT'S ATTENTION TO REFTEL (USIAC INFO TO DEPT) WHICH REPORTS THE OCT 7 INTERVIEW GRANTED THE BERT QUINT CBS TEAM BY PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE. WE ARE PARTICULARLY STRUCK BY SIAD'S REPORTED PUBLIC PROPOSAL (REFTEL PARA 2) TO SWAP THE SOVIET ARMS SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP FOR A SIMILAR ARRANGEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES. (WE UNDERSTAND FROM DISCUSSION WITH QUINT THAT HE MAY NOT HAVE A FILM QUOTE OF THIS STATEMENT, BUT THAT HE DOES HAVE IT ON TAPE.) ASSUMING QUINT'S REPORTING IS ACCURATE, WE BELIEVE IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT SIAD WAS MORE EXPLICIT IN HIS OFFER TO SWAP
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HORSE IN MID-STREAM THAN HE HAS BEEN AND HAS NOW SAID PUBLICLY WHAT HERETOFORE HE HAS SAID OR IMPLIED ONLY IN PRIVATE.

2. THE SOMALI PRESIDENT REINFORCED HIS COMMENTS TO CBS WITH AN INTERVIEW GIVEN TO ITALIAN TV ON THE EVENING OF THE 8TH, THE SECOND INTERVIEW GRANTED TO WESTERN TV IN AS MANY DAYS. ACCORDING TO THE ITALIAN EMBASSY, SIAD'S MESSAGE TO ITALIAN VIEWERS

EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT DISCUSSIONS NOW IN PROGRESS WITH THE US WILL STRNGTHEN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND CLEAR UP PAST MISUNDERSTANDINGS BASED ON MISINFORMATION. HE SAID HE WANTS BETTER RELATIONS WITH THE US. HE REPORTEDLY SAID SOMALI-US RELATIONS WERE NOT AS GOOD AS COULD BE EXPECTED, PRIMARILY DUE TO SOME AMERICANS WHO PROVIDED ADVERSE INFORMATION WHICH WAS THEN CIRCULATED BY CERTAIN PERSONS IN THE UNITED STATES. THE SOMALI PRESIDENT ALSO TOLD THE ITALIAN TV HE WAS DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE "BUILD UP" OF SOVIET ARMS IN ETHIOPIA, AND DEFINED THE ATTEMPT BY THE ETHIOPIANS TO INTERNATIONALIZE THE CONFLICT AS A "CRIMINAL ACT".

3. COMMENT: CONCEIVABLY SIAD IS ATTEMPTING TO SET THE STAGE FOR A DRAMATIC EXPOSITION OF SOMALI POSITION, PERHAPS AT THE UNGA AS CURRENT GOSSIP IN THE MOGADISCIO DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY ASSERTS. AT MINIMUM HE MAY BE ATTEMPTING TO PLEASE HIS MODERATE ARAB ALLIES BY ATTACKING THE SOVIET UNION, BUT HE DID NOT CONFINE HIS CRITICISMS TO THE SOVIETS. IT MAY ALSO BE THAT SIAD'S PROPOSAL IS AN EFFORT TO PRESSURE THE SOVIETS INTO ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR HIS IRREDENTIST WAR. WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR MOSCOW'S VIEW OF THIS POSSIBLE PLOY. LOUGHRAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS, MILITARY SALES, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MOGADI01702
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770370-0119
Format: TEL
From: MOGADISCIO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771075/aaaacko.tel
Line Count: 82
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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TAGS: MASS, SO, ET, US, UR, (MOHAMED SIAD BARRE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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